

Serial No.: 10/707,582
Attorney Docket No.: F-629

Patent

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-5 and 7-21 were pending in the Application. Applicants have amended claim 8 and canceled claims 1-5, 7, 9, and 11-20 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. The Amendments are submitted solely to place the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal. Applicant submits that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 8, 10 and 21 will remain pending in the application.

2. Telephonic Interview

Applicants' undersigned attorney appreciates the courtesy extended by the Examiner in the telephonic interviews that concluded June 20, 2006 in which the pending claims and cited references were discussed. The Examiner indicated, subject to review, that the subject matter of claims 8 and 10 and claim 21 appeared to be distinguished from the cited art and appeared to contain allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 8 into independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and canceled claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 11-20.

3. Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

In section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 13-18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0054778 A1 by Ericson, et al. ("Ericson '778") in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0078088 A1 by Kuruoglu, et al. ("Kuruoglu '088") and in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0169986 A1 by Lortz ("Lortz '986").

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Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection including the combination, but in consideration of the Examiner's Interview and in order to expedite prosecution, the Applicants have canceled claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 13-18 without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection as to those claims is moot.

Regarding claim 21, during the Examiner's Interview, the Examiner stated, subject to review, that the cited references did not appear to teach or suggest at least:

determining if any two of the annotations overlap, and if so, selecting one of the two overlapping annotations using the hierarchical data;

creating a new annotated version of the original electronic version of the document incorporating the non-overlapping annotations and the selected overlapping annotations.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In section 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 8, 10 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0054778 A1 by Ericson, et al. ("Ericson '778") in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0078088 A1 by Kuruoglu, et al. ("Kuruoglu '088") in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0169986 A1 by Lortz ("Lortz '986") and in further view of U.S. Patent 5,581,682 to Anderson, et al. ("Anderson '682").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection including the combination, but in consideration of the Examiner's Interview and in order to expedite prosecution, the Applicants have canceled claims 19-20 without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection as to those claims is moot.

Regarding claims 8 and 10, during the Examiner's Interview, the Examiner stated, subject to review, that the cited references did not appear to teach or suggest at least:

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if the authorization level for the at least one editing command is below an authorization threshold, converting the at least one editing command into an annotation; and

converting non-priority editing commands into annotations.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

On page 12 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0054778 A1 by Ericson, et al. ("Ericson '778") in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0078088 A1 by Kuruoglu, et al. ("Kuruoglu '088") in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0169986 A1 by Lortz ("Lortz '986") and in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2003/0001020 A1 by Kardach ("Kardach '020").

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection as to that claim is moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In section 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0054778 A1 by Ericson, et al. ("Ericson '778") in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0078088 A1 by Kuruoglu, et al. ("Kuruoglu '088") in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0169986 A1 by Lortz ("Lortz '986") and in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2001/0051890 A1 by Burgess ("Burgess '890").

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claim 12 without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection as to that claim is moot.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 10 and 21 are in condition for allowance.

4. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

5. Authorization

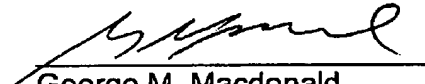
No fee is believed due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-629.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-629.

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Respectfully submitted,



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